

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for performing automated commerce ordering, comprising:

creating a budget for a transaction, the budget including a total price and at least one line item, each line item including an approved work order price; and

if the budget does not exceed a budget maximum~~[[,]]~~:

approving the budget;

creating a work order for each line item, each work order specifying a vendor to complete the work order;

transmitting the work order to the vendor electronically;

receiving invoice information from the vendor, the invoice information including an invoiced price;

if the invoiced price is not greater than the approved work order price or a preset overage tolerance, approving the invoiced price; and

initiating payment of the approved invoice price to the vendor.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein payment of the approved invoice price to the vendor is provided via check or direct deposit.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the budget exceeds a budget maximum if the total price exceeds a total budget maximum.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the budget exceeds a budget maximum if the approved work order price exceeds a line item maximum.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:

if the budget exceeds a budget maximum, requiring a manager approval before approving the budget.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the manager approval is provided using a workflow.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
if the budget exceeds a budget maximum, requiring a payor approval before approving the budget.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a confirmation from the vendor specified on the work order after the work order has been transmitted to the vendor.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein the confirmation specifies a modified price.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, further comprising:
if the modified price is greater than the approved work order price, and the modified price is approved, reflecting the modified price as a budget variance.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, further comprising:
if the invoiced price is greater than the approved modified price, performing dispute resolution.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein initiating payment includes a payor directly paying a vendor.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein initiating payment includes a payor making a payment to an account, and a vendor receiving payment from the account.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 14, wherein the account is a bank account.

16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 14, wherein initiating payment further includes receiving a file of required payments from an accounts payable system for a payor; and converting, formatting, and interfacing the received file for use in an automated clearinghouse system.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
charging a transaction fee.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 17, wherein the transaction fee is charged to a payor.

19. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 17, wherein the transaction fee is charged to the vendor.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein initiating payment includes making a batch posting, the batch posting including a payment to the vendor.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving at least one bid, each bid specifying a cost estimate and a vendor.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 21, further comprising:
selecting one of the at least one bid.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 22, wherein the vendor specified by the selected bid is selected to complete the work order.

24. **(Withdrawn)** A method for electronic ordering, comprising:
- receiving a request for an ordered item;
 - generating a receivable call for the ordered item;
 - placing an order with a vendor for the ordered item;
 - generating a call to the vendor;
 - determining an invoiced price for an item; and
 - initiating and facilitating payment to the vendor.
25. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, further comprising:
- assessing a price module to determine an expected price for the ordered item.
26. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, further comprising:
- storing a record of the receivable call in a data repository.
27. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, further comprising:
- receiving a confirmation from the vendor for delivery of the ordered item.
28. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 27, wherein the confirmation specifies a modified price for the ordered item.
29. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 28, further comprising:
- if the invoiced price is greater than the modified price, performing dispute resolution.
30. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, wherein determining an invoiced price for an item comprises:
- receiving invoicing information for the ordered item from the vendor, the invoicing information specifying an invoiced price.

31. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 30, further comprising:
generating an invoice from the invoicing information.
32. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 24, further comprising:
if the invoiced price is greater than an approved price, performing dispute
resolution.
33. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 32, further comprising:
automatically approving the invoiced price if the invoiced price does not exceed
the approved price or a preset overage tolerance; and
providing a workflow queue for approval of invoices that exceed the approved
price prior to initiating payment.
34. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising a
computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to
perform electronic expense tracking, the control logic comprising:
first computer readable program code means for creating a budget for a
transaction, the budget including a total price and at least one line item, each line item
including an approved work order price;
second computer readable program code means for approving the budget if the
budget does not exceed a budget maximum;
third computer readable program code means for creating a work order for each
line item after approval of the budget, each work order specifying a vendor to complete
the work order;
fourth computer readable program code means for transmitting the work order to
the vendor electronically;

fifth computer readable program code means for receiving invoice information from the vendor, the invoice information including an invoiced price;

sixth computer readable program code means for approving the invoiced price if the invoiced price is not greater than the approved work order price; and

seventh computer readable program code means for initiating payment of the approved invoice price to the vendor.

35. **(Currently Amended)** A system for electronic expense tracking, comprising:

a processor;

a user interface functioning via the processor;

a transmitter accessible by the processor for transmitting information; and

a receiver accessible by the processor for receiving information;

wherein a budget is created via the processor using information input into the user interface, the budget including at least one line item, each line item including an approved work order price; and

wherein, if the budget does not exceed a budget maximum[.];

the budget is approved via the processor;

~~wherein~~ a work order is created for each line item via the processor, each work order specifying a vendor to complete the work order;

~~wherein~~ the work order is transmitted to the vendor via the transmitter,

~~wherein~~ invoice information is received from the vendor via the receiver, the invoice information including an invoiced price;

wherein, if the invoiced price is not greater than the approved work order price or a preset price overage ~~tollerance~~ tolerance, the invoiced price is approved via the processor; and

wherein payment of the approved invoice price to the vendor is initiated via the processor.

36. **(Original)** The system of claim 35, wherein the processor is housed on a terminal.

37. **(Original)** The system of claim 36, wherein the terminal is selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a main frame computer, a microcomputer, a hand held device, and a telephonic device.

38. **(Original)** The system of claim 35, wherein the processor is housed on a server.

39. **(Original)** The system of claim 38, wherein the server is selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a microcomputer, and a main frame computer.

40. **(Original)** The system of claim 38, wherein the server is coupled to a network.

41. **(Original)** The system of claim 40, wherein the network is the Internet.

42. **(Original)** The system of claim 38, wherein the server is coupled to the network via a coupling.

43. **(Original)** The system of claim 42, wherein the coupling is selected from a group consisting of a wired connection, a wireless connection, and a fiberoptic connection.

44. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the repository is housed on a server.

45. (Original) The system of claim 44, wherein the server is coupled to a network.